

VIGO COUNTY COUNCIL
Sunshine Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 3, 2023 at 5:00 P.M.
Council Chambers – Vigo County Government Center

Pledge of Allegiance

President Pro Tem Marie Theisz called the meeting to order at 5:00.

Calling of the roll

Aaron Loudermilk – present, Nancy Allsup – present; Vicki Weger – present; Todd Thacker – absent; Marie Theisz – present; Travis Norris – present; and David Thompson – present. Marie Theisz said President Thacker was out of town due to a family medical issue but would be at next week's meeting.

Communications from elected officials, other officials or agencies of the County

Donna Weger from the Coroner's Office said that Dr. Janie Myers had been unable to be at tonight's meeting due to being out of town but she would be at next week's meeting to speak with the Council about a situation with body storage.

First reading by summary reference of proposed ordinances and resolutions

- i. Salary Ordinance 2023-21A: Sheriff – salary adjustment to building security division
- ii. Additional Appropriation 2023-21B: Sheriff – salary adjustment to building security division
- iii. Additional Appropriation 2023-22B: EDIT – Improvement Parks and Local Grant Match Parks
- iv. Additional Appropriation 2023-22B: EDIT – Demolition of Property
- v. Additional Appropriation 2023-23B: Building Maintenance – Building Repair
- vi. Additional Appropriation 2023-24B: Cum Capital Development – Building Repair
- vii. Additional Appropriation 2023-25B: LIT/PSAP – security equipment
- viii. Additional Appropriation 2023-26B: Highway – equipment new
- ix. Additional Appropriation 2023-27B: ARPA – culvert and drainage projects

Reports from committees

Marie Theisz said that Council is expected to receive information on Monday from Baker Tilly regarding the updated information on the salary study. Baker Tilly is anticipated to be here prior to the June Sunshine meeting to meet with department heads.

Resolutions and Ordinances other than appropriations.

There were none.

Ordinances relating to appropriations.

i. Salary Ordinance 2023-21A: Sheriff – salary adjustment to building security division

Officer Derek Fell with the Vigo County Sheriff's Office explained that the request tonight concerned putting the salary for the building security personnel in line with the structure of the correctional staff at the Jail and the Juvenile Center. They would also like to see the part time hourly rate be the same as the full time hourly rate. The training, job, responsibilities and expectations are the same for both but part time just does not receive the benefits as full time employees. Officer Fell said they did speak about this matter with Baker Tilly when they met with them. Aaron Loudermilk asked what the feedback from Baker Tilly was when this was discussed. Officer Fell said Jada from Baker Tilly did not think it would be a problem in any way, in her opinion, and could easily be done. There was a lengthy discussion about the hourly rates, stipends and total amount in question. Travis Norris asked about overtime. Officer Fell explained that there would always be overtime due to meetings/functions/court proceedings that took place outside of regular hours that required security.

ii. Additional Appropriation 2023-21B: Sheriff – Salary Adjustment to Building Security Division

This is the additional appropriation that would be used to fund the Salary Ordinance being requested in the prior paragraph.

iii. Additional Appropriation 2023-22B: EDIT – Improvement Parks and Local Grant Match Parks

Adam Grossman, Vigo County Parks Superintendent, explained this request concerns the demolition of Markle Mill Dam. \$16,000 of the money requested is for the grant match to make the demolition and reconstruction of the site happen. The LARE grant match would pay about \$80,000 of the cost. The park itself also needs improvements, including putting up some lights and cameras to cut down on any shady activities that could occur. Additional needs/wants for the park, established through community meetings, include additional play equipment, interpretive signage talking about the dam (keeping the history of the dam as much as possible), tree work (removal of dead trees and stump grinding), new parking, and covered picnic tables. The Redbud trees located there were planted in memory of the 911 victims. The trees have reached their lifespan and making a center area that separates parking from the road as a memorial to replace the removal of the trees would keep that remembrance going. Marie Theisz asked if they could get some drawings/renderings of what the park would look like if all this was implemented and Mr. Grossman said he could bring some to next week's meeting.

iv. Additional Appropriation 2023-22B: EDIT – Demolition of Property

Commissioner Chris Switzer said that he wanted the community to understand that the building in question was 100% excluded back in 2020 when the property was leased to

The Mill. No taxpayer funds are being spent on The Mill. The funds being requested are to remove a county-owned dilapidated building located on the property. Seven bids were solicited for the removal of the building. Bids ranged from \$80,000 to \$400,000. They have chosen to go with McGuire, not because it was the cheapest, but because the Commissioners felt that the removal/fill tonnage that would be used would prevent them from having to come back later for additional monies to re-do some of the project. This will include the building being razed down to ground level and grass seed planted/straw spread. The Commissioners feel that they are meeting the same standards and requirements they expect from taxpayers by cleanup of this dilapidated, unsafe building. Vicki Weger asked what they planned to do with the property once this was done. Mr. Switzer said nothing was planned at the moment. It had been looked at for renovation by several people but there is no running water or sewer on the property at all and the cost to install same, along with other renovations in order to even bring it up to code, was prohibitive. Aaron Loudermilk asked if they were required to obtain bids on a project like this. Mr. Switzer said that anything costing less than \$150,000 only requires a request for proposals. There was a short discussion. Kevin Gardner, Vigo County Assessor, noted that comments had been made that The Mill was operating as exempt and no property taxes were coming back to the County. Mr. Gardner said that as of 2023 pay 2024, roughly \$860,000 worth of assessed value is going on the tax rolls for that property. By beautifying that area, there is the probability of bringing in future business to that area which, in turn, would bring more assessed value to that area.

v. Additional Appropriation 2023-23B: Building Maintenance – Building Repair

Commissioner Mark Clinkenbeard said this appropriation request is to pay for exterior repairs and painting of three county owned buildings. Community Corrections at 1st and Ohio is in need of some exterior repair and painting. The other two buildings are located at 823 South 13th Street and house the Vigo County records, voting machines and other vital information. A new roof was installed on the larger building in the last couple of years and it is in need of some additional repair. It was felt that both buildings are worth saving. He also noted that these monies could be come from either Building Maintenance or Cum Capital Development and had been advertised in both funds to give Council the option of where to fund this request. There was a short discussion about the use of the buildings on South 13th Street. Travis Norris asked whether any decision had been made for the use of the old Jail. Mr. Clinkenbeard said that the decision process was still ongoing.

vi. Additional Appropriation 2023-24B: Cum Capital Development – Building Repair

This was advertised in order to give the Council an option of using money from this fund for the building repair that was discussed in the prior request.

vii. Additional Appropriation 2023-25B: LIT/PSAP – security equipment

Commissioner Mark Clinkenbeard explained that this request is to purchase and install two new scanners. One will be installed at the northeast entrance of the Government

Center and the other will be installed at the Vigo County Juvenile Court entrance and will replace one that is broken. Building security is a top priority. They did shop for the best deal for the money and there is a discount/savings of \$1,200 if two are purchased. Mr. Clinkenbeard said that the Commissioners are continuing to work on getting swipes for the offices in the building that currently do not have them. There was a discussion about the scanner that was broke, when it had been purchased, and warranties. It was noted that the new scanners came with a warranty and installation/training and are from a different company than the one used years ago. The last scanner purchased had come from this company and the pricing/service was better.

viii. Additional Appropriation 2023-26B: Highway – equipment new

Larry Robbins, County Engineer and Highway Director, explained that this appropriation request was for new equipment. They had received approximately \$66,900 in insurance payout money in the last eighteen months involving accidents in some county-owned vehicles. Surplus inventory had also been sold in late 2021 and 2022. Those funds have to be appropriated in order to be able to use them. The goal is to use those monies to purchase a couple of slide in brine units so they can treat the roads and also to get a new truck chassis for the paint truck to make striping the roads more efficient.

ix. Additional Appropriation 2023-27B: ARPA – culvert and drainage projects

Commissioner Chris Switzer noted that there will be an ARPA meeting on May 11 at this location giving details on the use of the ARPA funds to be sure the money will be spent correctly and requirements on doing so. This request is from last year with a few tweaks for the culvert projects. Larry Robbins had provided a list of bridge and culvert projects that this money will be used on, along with a list of the location of the culverts to be replaced. The list also shows the overall rating of the need for replacement. Everything with a rating of 4 or below absolutely needs to be replaced. Some of the projects have dropped off since last year and are now complete. Some were funded by the Community Crossings grant. There are 19 total structures that are all projects needed to be done ahead of some of the regular work. Some also need to be replaced so that they don't fail and cause more issues. There was a short discussion.

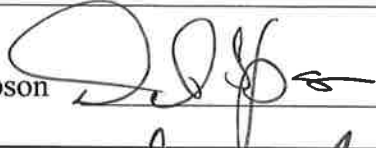
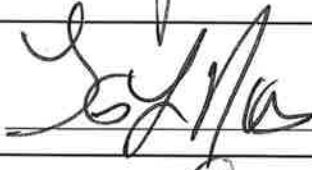





Public Comments

Kevin Southwood of Terre Haute spoke about his property tax assessment.

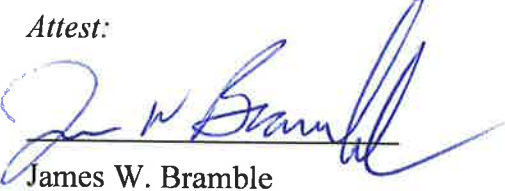
Vicki Weger made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Nancy Allsup seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote of 6-0, the motion was unanimously approved and the meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE VIGO COUNTY COUNCIL
SUNSHINE MEETING
MAY 3, 2023

Presented to the Vigo County Council, read in full and adopted as written this 13th day of June, 2023.

Aye <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Absent <input type="checkbox"/>	David Thompson	
Nay <input type="checkbox"/>	Abstain <input type="checkbox"/>		
Aye <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Absent <input type="checkbox"/>	Travis Norris	
Nay <input type="checkbox"/>	Abstain <input type="checkbox"/>		
Aye <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Absent <input type="checkbox"/>	Marie Theisz	
Nay <input type="checkbox"/>	Abstain <input type="checkbox"/>		
Aye <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Absent <input type="checkbox"/>	R. Todd Thacker, President	
Nay <input type="checkbox"/>	Abstain <input type="checkbox"/>		
Aye <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Absent <input type="checkbox"/>	Vicki Weger	
Nay <input type="checkbox"/>	Abstain <input type="checkbox"/>		
Aye <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Absent <input type="checkbox"/>	Nancy Allsup	
Nay <input type="checkbox"/>	Abstain <input type="checkbox"/>		
Aye <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Absent <input type="checkbox"/>	Aaron Loudermilk	
Nay <input type="checkbox"/>	Abstain <input type="checkbox"/>		

Attest:


James W. Bramble
Vigo Auditor